

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-7 are amended. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; and suggests amendments to claims 1, 6, 7 and 10 to overcome the rejection. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify the scope of the recited subject matter. Applicant has amended claims 6 and the dependency of 7 as suggested in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that no further amendment to claim 7 is necessary to clarify the relative magnitudes of internal pressures. Applicant notes that the internal pressure recited in claim 7 is gauge pressure. Applicant also respectfully submits that no amendment to claim 10 is necessary. The recited opening part can be positioned to open to either of the first chamber or the second chamber, or alternatively, to both, for example, because it can extend across both chambers.

For these reasons described above, Applicant respectfully submits that the §112 rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6, 7, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakagawa (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0068524 A1); rejects claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakagawa in view of Terou et al. (JP-A-2000-357641) (Terou); rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakagawa in view of Ogawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,975,834) (Ogawa); rejects claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakagawa in view of Rapisarda et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0108334); and rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakagawa in view of Terou, and further in view of Rapisarda. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Nakagawa does not teach or suggest a device with a casing having (1) a first chamber between a first floor and a fan/filter unit, and (2) a second chamber between the first floor and a bottom part of the casing through which air can pass between the second chamber and an outside of the bottom part of the casing, as recited in claim 1. Nakagawa discloses a clean room having a grating floor 7. Air passing from above to below the grating floor 7 is recirculated to the ceiling of the clean room by a circulating fan 31 via vertical ducts 9. In contrast to Nakagawa, the device recited in claim 1 is not for recirculating foreign particles, but instead enables clean air blown into the casing to pass downwardly from the first chamber into the second chamber, and from the second chamber out of the casing through a bottom part of the casing.

Nakagawa also does not teach or suggest a device having a first floor provided in the casing and horizontally arranged on a lower side of an arm of a conveying robot at a middle height part of the conveying robot and through which air can pass between an upper side of the first floor and a lower side of the first floor, as recited in amended claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that for the reasons described above, claim 1 is patentable over Nakagawa. Applicant further submits that the other cited references do not overcome the deficiencies of Nakagawa. Thus, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. The rejections of claims 2-11 also should be withdrawn because of their dependence from allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional features recited in these claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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